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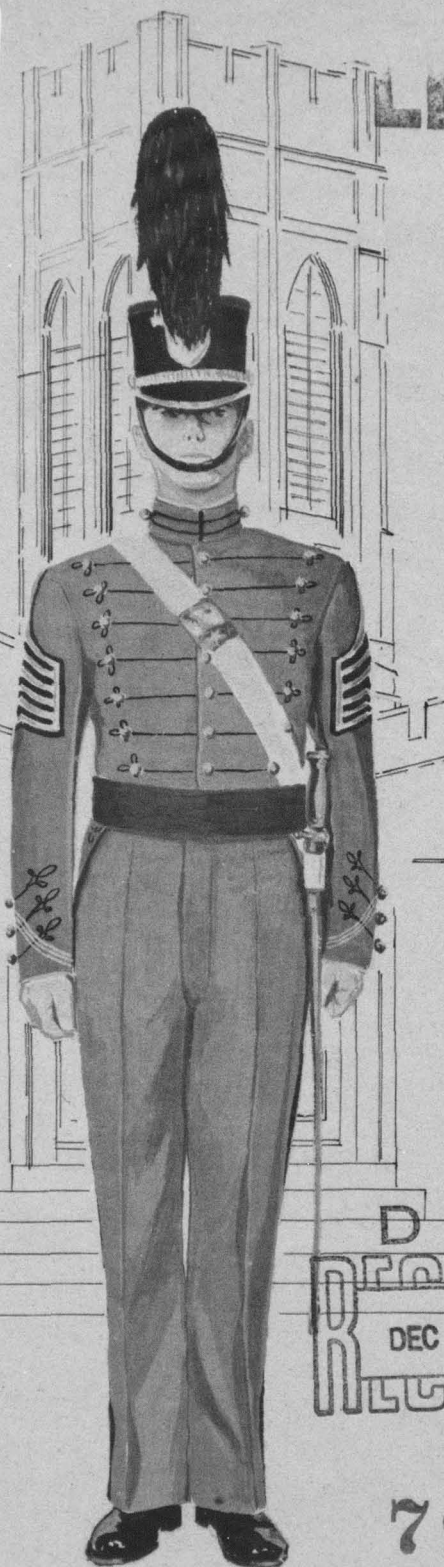
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CLASSES OF 1972 AND 1974

(A Research Note)

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FEBRUARY 1974

DRAFT LOTTERY STANDING AND LOSSES
FROM USMA CLASSES OF 1972 AND 1974
(A Research Note)

Report No. 2A1.00-74-022
Task No. 2059
Prepared By: Mr. John W. Houston
February 1974

ABSTRACT

↓ The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a relationship between draft lottery numbers and losses, from the USMA Classes of 1972 and 1974 of those who had a lottery number at the time of release. The results indicate there is no significant relationship between draft lottery numbers and attrition of cadets in these classes. ↖

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Programmers: Mr. Donald Leech
 SP7 Joseph E. Astel

Typist: Mrs. Donna R. Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a relationship between draft lottery numbers and losses (except deaths), from the USMA Classes of 1972 and 1974 of those who had a lottery number at the time of release.

The Class of 1972 was one of the classes chosen for this study because the members of this class had nine months remaining after the first draft lottery (1 December 1969) before starting academics the Second Class Year. Cadets leaving USMA after the beginning of the First Academic Semester in the Second Class Year were subject to being ordered to active duty for a period of up to four years.¹ The first draft lottery assigned draft numbers to those born between 1 January 1944 through 31 December 1950.

The Class of 1974 was the other class chosen for the study because it was the first class to enter the Academy after the first draft lottery. Table 1 shows the number and percent of the members of the Classes of 1972 through 1974 receiving numbers in each of the first four draft lotteries. The Class of 1973 is shown for continuity of presentation. Table 1 shows the complete entering classes, including those who left the Academy before knowing their lottery numbers.

TABLE 1
YEAR OF RECEIPT OF DRAFT NUMBER
CLASSES 1972-1974

	CLASS OF		
	1972*	1973*	1974**
Date Admitted	1 Jul 68	1 Jul 69	1 Jul 70
Received Draft Number:			
1st Draft Lottery 1 Dec 69 (DOB 1950 and earlier)	1221 (98.2%)	473 (32.9%)	130 (9.5%)
2nd Draft Lottery 2 Jul 70 (DOB 1951)	23 (1.8%)	951 (66.1%)	341 (24.8%)
3rd Draft Lottery 6 Aug 71 (DOB 1952)	0	14 (1.0%)	877 (63.9%)
4th Draft Lottery 2 Feb 72 (DOB 1953)	0	0	25 (1.8%)

*No members of the Classes of 1972 and 1973 had draft lottery numbers at entrance.
**One hundred and thirty (9.5%) of the Class had draft lottery numbers at entrance.

¹Letter from the Commandant of Cadets, dated 27 September 1966, Subject: Policy Concerning Separations of USMA Cadets for Reasons Other than Medical Disability.

METHOD

Sample

The Class of 1972 had a strength of 988 on 1 December 1969 and graduated 822 in June 1972. Three of the cadets of the Class of 1972 lost after 1 December 1969 had not yet been assigned draft numbers at the time of departure from West Point. These three were not included in the sample, leaving a sample size of 139 cadets who had draft lottery numbers and had not yet started Second Class Academics at the time of release from the U. S. Military Academy.

The Class of 1974 had a strength of 1373 new cadets at entrance. Of the 522 who were lost by 30 September 1972, 275 had draft numbers at the time of departure. These 275 were those used for the Class of 1974 losses.

Procedure

Using a date of birth listing, the draft lottery numbers were inserted for the 139 cadets in the Class of 1972 who were lost between 1 December 1969 and 30 September 1970 and had draft numbers at the time of departure from USMA. The number of cadets in each sextile in the range of draft lottery numbers is shown on Table 2. Similarly, the draft lottery numbers were listed for the 275 cadets in the Class of 1974 who were lost before 30 September 1972 and had draft numbers at the time of their departure. The number of these cadets in each sextile in the range of draft lottery numbers is shown on Table 2. In this study, the control groups consist of 166 graduates of the Class of 1972 and 162 cadets of the Class of 1974 who were still enrolled as of December 1973.² A chi-square test for significance of differences among sextiles was carried out for both the Losses and the Control Groups (Table 2).

TABLE 2
LOSSES AND RETENTION BY DRAFT LOTTERY NUMBER

Lottery Number	CLASSES			
	1972		1974	
	Losses 1 Dec 69-30 Sep 70	Graduate Sample	Losses 1 Jul 70-30 Sep 72	Persistor Sample
1-61	28	36	50	29
62-122	25	30	50	24
123-183	21	20	50	31
184-244	23	25	43	30
245-305	16	31	37	21
306-366	26	24	45	27
TOTAL (1-366)	139*	166	275**	162

*Not including 3 cadets without draft lottery numbers at time of departure.

**Not including 247 cadets without draft lottery numbers at time of departure.

²Class rosters of cadets who were not lost (Graduates, Class of 1972 and Persistors, Class of 1974) arranged in order of date of birth were prepared. Every fifth cadet was selected for the control groups as being representative of all non-leavers.

RESULTS

There was no significant difference in losses in either class for those who had high draft numbers compared to those who had low numbers (Table 2). In the control group of graduates and persistors there was no significant difference in the number in each sextile in the draft lottery (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

If draft lottery numbers were an influence on attrition from the Military Academy, it would be expected that losses would be highest for the highest lottery numbers. At the time of the first lottery drawing (1 December 1969), Selective Service officials were widely quoted to the effect that individuals with very low numbers (e.g., 1-100) were almost certain to be drafted, while those with very high numbers (e.g., 240 and up) would almost certainly not be drafted. In 1970, no local draft board drafted anyone with a number higher than 195, while in 1971 the actual cutoff number was 125.³ The losses of cadets in the Class of 1972 in the highest third of the draft number range (numbers over 244) actually were one less than for cadets in the lowest third (under 123). In the Class of 1974 there were only 82 lost within the highest third of draft numbers while 100 were lost within the lowest third.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no significant relationship between draft lottery numbers and attrition of cadets in the USMA Classes of 1972 and 1974.

There are no significant relationships in the range of draft lottery numbers of those retained in the Classes of 1972 and 1974.

³Jehn, C. and Carroll, H. E. Methodology for Using Draft Lottery Data to Estimate True Volunteers, Center for Naval Analyses, Research Contribution 247, May 1973.

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